

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 AF-10

ARA-16 NEA-10 /168 W

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R 101603Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US MISSION BERLIN 1080

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, UR, CH, XX

SUBJECT: PRAGUE PRELUDE TO POSSIBLE WORLD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATIONS FROM 67 COMMUNIST PARTIES INCLUDING ALL OF WARSAW PACT, MONGOLIAN AND MAJOR WESTERN PARTIES, BUT EXCLUDING YUGOSLAVS, CHINESE, NORTH KOREANS AND INDO-CHINESE, ATTENDED JANUARY 7-9 MEETING IN PRAGUE DEVOTED OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSSION OF JOURNAL "PROBLEMS OF PEACE

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AND SOCIALISM." FROM REPORT OF SPEECH BY SOVIET DELEGATE PONOMAREV, AND MORE EXPLICITLY FROM SPEECH BY BILAK OF

CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY, IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN ANOTHER AND MORE FORMAL STEP TOWARD CONVENING WORLD CONFERENCE OF CPS. BILAK STRONGLY ATTACKED CHINESE AT MEETING. FINAL COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, OMITTED REFERENCE TO EITHER CHINA OR POSSIBLE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM UNIDENTIFIED QUARTERS MENTIONED BY BILAK. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PONOMAREV SPOKE JANUARY 7 IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT INCREASED INTEREST BEING SHOWN IN MULTILATERAL MEETINGS OF COMMUNIST PARTIES AND NEED FOR COORDINATION OF POLICIES OF PARTIES (MOSCOW 240). VASIL BILAK, MEMBER OF PRESIDUM OF CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY, RETURNED TO THESE THEMES IN MORE DETAIL ON FOLLOWING DAY. AFTER STATING THAT MOST OF GOALS SET BY 1969 CONFERENCE OF PARTIES HAD BEEN MET, BILAK SAID CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY WAS CONVINCED THAT PREPARATIONS SHOULD GET UNDER WAY FOR NEW CONFERENCE. HE WENT ON TO SAY, "SOMETIMES WE HEAR THAT VIEW THAT, IN A SITUATION MARKED BY CERTAIN DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, WE SHOULD SUBMIT NO THEORETICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL ISSUES TO DISCUSSION AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES... THE EXPERIENCE OF THE KSC CONFIRMS THE HARMFULNESS OF ATTEMPTS TO REPLACE MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES WITH SOME SPECIAL INTERPRETATION OF THEORY CONFINED TO A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND CULTIVATED FOR ITS OWN SAKE...NO MATTER FROM WHICH ANGLE WE REGARD THESE PROBLEMS, WE REACH THE CONCLUSION THAT COORDINATED ACTIVITY OF ALL FRATERNAL PARTIES IN THE IDEOLOGICAL AREA IS OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE FOR THE UNITY AND COHERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AND WORKERS MOVEMENT..." BILAK SAID THAT BECAUSE MAJOR STRUGGLE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND IMPERIALISM WAS NOW IDEOLOGICAL, COMMUNIST MOVEMENT MUST UNIFY ITS EFFORTS TO OVERCOME COORDINATED ATTEMPTS OF CAPITALIST COUNTRIES TO ERODE IDEOLOGICAL UNITY OF COMMUNIST CAMP.

3. BILAK THEN PROCEEDED TO READ CHINA OUT OF MOVEMENT: "OUR MAGAZINE CANNOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ATTACKS LAUNCHED ON THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE FROM THE PSEUDOREVOLUTIONARY, ULTRA-LEFTIST POSITIONS OF THE MAOIST LEADERSHIP IN CHINA. THE KSC PROCEEDS IN ITS IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY FROM THE FACT THAT HIS LEADERSHIP HAS DEPARTED FOR GOOD FROM MARXIST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LENINIST POSITIONS AND STANDS ON AN ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-SOCIALIST PLATFORM. PRINCIPLED AND OPEN CRITICISM OF MAOISM IS DEFENSE OF THE PURITY OF MARXISM-LENINISM...SLANDERS AND INSULTS OF THE SOVIET PARTY: IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE, APPEALS FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF NATO, AND THE INCLUSION OF THE USSR IN THE IMPERIALIST SYSTEM BY DOCUMENTS OF THE TENTH CHINESE CONGRESS CANNOT BE ASSESSED OTHERWISE BUT AS A BETRAYAL OF MARXISM-LENINIST..."

4. ATTENDANCE AT MEETING WAS EVIDENTLY TRICKY QUESTION. AT FIRST, CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS AGENCY SAID THAT NO LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ISSUED, BUT LATER "RUDE PRAVO" LISTED ALL 67 PARTICIPATING PARTIES INCLUDING ONE PARTY WHICH "CHOSE NOT TO BE NAMED." IN ADDITION TO RATHER GENERAL COMMUNIQUE, DELEGATES ADOPTED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING CHILEAN JUNTA AND CONDEMNING PERSECUTION OF COMMUNIST AND DEMOCRATS IN VARIETY OF STATES INCLUDING SUDAN, ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND IRAQI KURDISTAN.

5. BILAK'S SPEECH IS FIRST DIRECT CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES BY CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY LEADER AND STRONGEST CONDEMNATION OF CHINESE YET MADE BY KSC LEADERSHIP. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOVIETS CHOSE CONFERENCE AS CONVENIENT GATHERING OF MOST OF WORLD'S COMMUNIST PARTIES TAKING PLACE IN CONTROLLED CONDITIONS AND BILAK AS RELIABLE BUT NON-SOVIET SPOKESMAN TO PURSUE DRIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. ROMANIANS AND PERHAPS OTHER PARTIES WHICH WOULD OPPOSE ATTACKS ON CHINESE WERE REPRESENTED AT PRAGUE AND PRESUMABLY SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED MENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR CONDEMNATION OF CHINESE IN COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOW AGAIN BEEN PUT ON NOTICE THAT SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONVENE CONFERENCE.

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